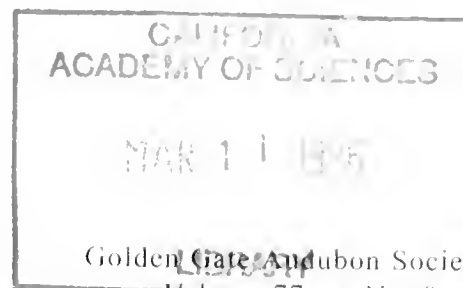


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Golden Gate Audubon Society Newsletter
Volume 77 • No. 9 • October 1995

The Gull

Alameda Naval Air Station: Report Details Economic Benefits of Refuge

**October Meeting:
Restoring a Treasure:
The Klamath Basin**
back page

**Panama Park Desecrated
Christmas Count Dates
Sonoma Breeding Bird
Atlas**
East Bay Parks Go to Sea
page 70

**Volunteers Needed
GGAS Trips to Galapagos
and Trinidad/Tobago
In Memory**
page 71

Observations
page 72

**GGAS Monterey Pelagic
Trip
Back Yard Birder**
page 74

News from the Ranch
page 75

**Audubon Calendars,
Datebooks**
back page

A \$15 million net economic benefit to the Bay Area could result from the creation of the proposed Alameda National Wildlife Refuge.

This is the conclusion reached by Dr. Robert Hrubes, a well-known resource economist, in his report, *The Potential Economic Benefits of the Proposed Alameda National Wildlife Refuge: An Overview*, commissioned by the Golden Gate Audubon Society.

When the Navy announced the closing of the Alameda Naval Air Station, concern was expressed by the Bay Area community over the economic hardships that could result from the closure. A scientific symposium held by Golden Gate Audubon revealed that the loss of the habitat on the Air Station would also have a tremendous impact on the Bay's wildlife populations. Over 100 avian species, including the endangered California Least Tern, Caspian Tern, and the Brown Pelican make the Air Station their home. Responding to this concern, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed the creation of an Alameda National Wildlife Refuge on 595 acres at the western end of the Air Station. The Refuge proposal also included 375 acres of San Francisco Bay waters.

While nearly everyone recognizes the need to preserve endangered species, some questioned the allocation of so much land for wildlife.

Dr. Hrubes' study answers that question. This report clearly demonstrates that the establishment of an Alameda National Wildlife Refuge will provide not only an essential home for wildlife, but also a substantial economic return to the Bay Area. Using very conservative assumptions, Dr. Hrubes has determined that an estimated annual net income generated by visitor and administrative expenditures

could exceed \$15 million.

Furthermore, Dr. Hrubes' analysis suggests that development alternatives for the land may prove infeasible, not only because of encumbrances such as the presence of endangered species and wetlands on the site, but also because of the question of the appropriateness of development on a site so susceptible to seismic activity. Furthermore, the presence of hazardous wastes on the site may require any development to be unacceptably dense in order to cover the costs of cleaning up those wastes.

Finally, if development took place, the City of Alameda would be, "...financially burdened with substantial support infrastructure investments such as roads, utilities, fire/police services ... residential developments [for example] commonly result in negative fiscal impacts on local jurisdictions." Increased traffic impacts would also result from such development.

Golden Gate Audubon Society believes that this report indicates the great benefits a wildlife refuge will bring to the City of Alameda, the East Bay, and the entire Bay Area. It will not only help preserve the natural beauty of the Bay Area, but will provide considerable economic benefits to the community as a result of that preservation.

All of which makes exquisite sense, but this position is still proving to be a hard sell with the policy makers. Copies of this report are available from the GGAS office. We urge you to read it and then contact members of the Alameda, Oakland, Emeryville and Berkeley city councils, Congressman Ron Dellums, and members of the Base Reuse Advisory Group, voicing your support for the creation of the Alameda National Wildlife Refuge, and citing the economic reasons for doing so.

METROPOLITAN NATURE PARK DEFILED, THEN CON- STRUCTION SLOWS A Panama Update

At the behest of Panama's Ministry of Public Works, the Mexican company PYCSA, which has been granted a 30-year concession to build and operate the Corredor Norte toll road, bulldozed an 80-meter wide swath through Panama City's Parque Natural Metropolitano on July 28, destroying valuable tropical forest, burying archeological sites, and cutting the Park's birds and other wildlife off from the Curundu River. The protests of Panama Audubon Society and other Panamanian organizations that the draft environmental impact assessment for this section of the highway project was woefully inadequate and mitigation plans almost nonexistent fell on deaf ears. Destruction of the forest apparently could not await preparation of a final EIA or evaluation of the archeological sites. Panama Audubon does not oppose the building of the Corredor Norte, but supports an alternative route for the section of the highway in the vicinity of the Nature Park, which would have a much less severe impact on the biological integrity of the Park.

This bleak picture, which readers will recognize as not dissimilar to environmental battles fought across our country, does contain some glimmers of hope. The publicizing of the EIA's shortcomings and the Panamanian government's manipulation of the process apparently convinced the Inter-American Development Bank to send an investigative team to Panama in August. The controversy has stalled CS/First Boston's completion of the financing of the destruction and PYCSA has slowed down work. Panama Audubon has filed petitions with the Panama Supreme Court seeking to prevent further despoiling of this area of the Park.

Steven Margolin

CHRISTMAS COUNT DATES

Mark your calendars now!

Oakland Christmas Bird Count will be held on December 17; the San Francisco Count will be held on December 27. Details in next month's *Gull*.

SONOMA BREEDING BIRD ATLAS PUBLISHED

Madrone Audubon Society has announced the publication of the *Sonoma County Breeding Bird Atlas* with detailed maps and accounts of the county's 159 nesting bird species plus an additional 22 species that have been determined to be former, irregular, or potential breeders.

The 216-page, 8-1/2 x 11" volume includes 70 charming pen and ink drawings by the great American bird-artist, Major Allan Brooks, a true publishing coup for Madrone Audubon.

Copies may be ordered from:

Betty Burridge

1653 Arroyo Sierra Way
Santa Rosa, CA 95405

Cost (tax included):

post-marked on or before 10/16:

\$16.13

after 10/16: \$21.50

+ shipping (\$3.00 for the 1st copy, \$1.00 for each additional copy)

The San Francisco Estuary Institute (formerly the Aquatic Habitat Institute) and
the Department of Biological Sciences/School of Science at CSU Hayward
present

Teaching About Watersheds

Saturday, November 4, 1995 at California State University,
Hayward (Lectures and Workshops)

and

Sunday, November 5 and Saturday and Sunday,
November 11 and 12 (Field Trips)

Over 20 workshops and 10 field trips

Prizes!

Curriculum Fair!

Hands-on activities to take back to the classroom!

Conference \$30, Lunch \$10, Credit \$35-\$70, Field Trips \$20-\$38

For a registration form or more information,
please call the Institute at (510) 231-9539

San Francisco Estuary Institute, 1325 S. 46th St.,
Richmond, CA 94804-4603

EAST BAY PARKS SPONSOR DEEP SEA TRIP

In a departure from normal activity, the East Bay Regional Park District is offering an extended 12-hour cruise to the deep waters off the central California coast to look for the wildlife that frequents this far off-shore area, bird species such as Laysan and Black-footed Albatross, gadfly petrels, storm petrels, shearwaters and alcids; and mammal species such as Sperm, Fin, Blue, Humpback, Killer and beaked whales; Common, Risso's, Pacific White-sided, and Northern Right Whale dolphins; as well as sea turtles, sunfish and sharks.

Naturalists will offer a pre-trip orientation at Crab Cove Visitor Center, Alameda, on Wednesday, October 11, 7:00-8:30 p.m.. Trip is Sunday, October 15, 5:45 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., aboard the *Salty Lady* from Sausalito.

Cost: \$80 resident; \$100 non-resident.

For information, call Mike Moran,
(510) 757-2620

For reservations, call (510) 636-1684

VOLUNTEERS AND BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED

Golden Gate Audubon has been one of the most successful Audubon Chapters in the nation. From helping to establish Audubon Canyon Ranch to seeking to save the California Least Tern at the Alameda Naval Air Station, we have fought to preserve our Bay Area wildlife. Offering over 70 field trips a year and providing the Northern California Rare Bird Alert and now the Bird Box to all interested birders we lead the way in recreational opportunities.

But it all happens because of volunteer effort. And GGAS is in need of a new influx of volunteers. Whether you can spare a few hours helping out in the GGAS Office, or would like to lead a field trip, or would like to write thank-you's to the many wonderful people who contribute money to our chapter, we have a place for you. Join us and feel the personal satisfaction one gets from performing important service while meeting wonderful people and having a good time. Here's a list of openings and a brief description of each:

Corresponding Secretary: writes thank-you notes and other official GGAS letters (not too many, this is not a lot of work but it is very important)

Hospitality Chair: help provide the refreshments for our meetings, think up ways to make them more enjoyable. We have volunteers who will help and the Chapter reimburses all expenses.

Conservation Chair: a big task and a very important one. The Chairperson has to be willing to attend both East Bay and West Bay Conservation Committee meetings (i.e., 2 meetings per month) and a Board meeting each month. Of course, our staff person, Arthur Feinstein will be there to help you as much as he can.

Field Trip leader: have you a spot where you enjoy birding? How about taking 5 or 10 people along with you. Its fun. Join the GGAS field trip team.

Office Volunteer: Come and spend three hours a week answering the phone, filing papers and, if you wish, doing some computer entry. Chatting with staff person Arthur is optional. The job is fun, you meet and talk to new and interesting people and you sure help GGAS a lot.

Outreach: we need people to attend environmental fairs, host at Audubon Canyon Ranch and help us man or woman booths at various events. This is a great way to meet people and spread the GGAS word.

Conservation Reporter: *The Gull* is in need of someone to summarize goings-on on the conservation front on regular basis. Pithy, as opposed to long-winded, preferred, although in-depth reports welcome as time, space and urgency dictate.

There lots of other things you can do. Give us a call if you have the time and look forward to getting some real satisfaction out of volunteering for GGAS.

SEE THE GALAPAGOS WITH GGAS

In November of 1996, plan on joining Barbara and Don Rivenes on a fourteen - day cruise through the Galapagos Islands. Experience the place that set Darwin on the road to his theories of evolution, a place that is still a living natural history laboratory. Darwin's finches, boobies, albatross, the Galapagos hawk, giant tortoises, sea lions and the red-and-green-trimmed marine iguana -- all these wonderful creatures and many more await you on this wonderful voyage.

Barb Rivenes was GGAS's staff person for many years and made all of our social occasions great successes. Don is one of GGAS's finest birders. The cruise will be aboard the beautiful and extremely comfortable 20-person private yacht, "Coral." Price, including lodging, most meals, and airfare, is a bargain \$3995.

Tentative trip dates are November 11 through November 24, 1996 (Thanksgiving is November 28).

Come on board for the trip of a lifetime. If you are interested, please call the GGAS Office at 510-843-2222.

BERTHA UNDERHILL

GGAS was saddened to hear of the death of Bertha Underhill, a past president of GGAS who helped lead the Society in its very successful efforts to create Audubon Canyon Ranch and to preserve Berkeley's Aquatic Park. It's all too easy to forget how successful and active our Society has been. Sadly, it often requires a death of one of our members to remind us of those successes.

We send our deepest regards to Bertha Underhill's family and to all those who worked closely with her in preserving the Bay Area's natural resources.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO NEXT APRIL

An Introduction to Neotropical Birds

Would you like to see what might just be the world's cutest bird, the Tufted Coquette? How about a visit to the Oilbird colony in Dunstan Cave and a boat ride through the Caroni Swamp at sunset to watch the mangroves fill up with Scarlet Ibises? Join Lina Jane Prairie on a nine-day GGAS-sponsored trip to Trinidad and Tobago in April 11 to April 19, 1996.

Nearly all of the colorful and interesting families of neotropical birds can be found on Trinidad and Tobago, including beautiful hummingbirds, manakins, motmots, tanagers, toucans and trogons. But the number of species in each family is not overwhelming, as it is at many birding destinations in Central and South America. This makes for an excellent introduction to neotropical birding. To assist you in preparing for the trip, Lina Prairie and Steve Margolin will meet with trip participants several weeks before departure, to offer tips on tropical birding and Trinidad and Tobago bird identification, as well as an overview of neotropical bird taxonomy.

We will stay for five nights at the famed Asa Wright Nature Center in Trinidad and for three nights at the Blue Waters Inn on the Atlantic coast of Tobago. The accommodations (all with private bath) are very comfortable and the food very good. The price will be \$1,995 per person, double occupancy, including meals and round trip airfare from San Francisco.

For a detailed itinerary and trip application, please send a written request, including your mailing address and the number of people interested in the trip, to the GGAS office.

LOONS TO LARIDS

A Pacific Loon at Bridgeport Res., MNO, Aug. 1 (PJM) was inland where unusual and also very early as most fall interior records tend to be later in the season; perhaps it summered. Two Red-necked Grebes at Ano Nuevo, SM, Aug. 30 (BMcK) were our first reports of the fall.

Black-footed Albatrosses continued in good numbers offshore with 100+ seen on several pelagic trips to the Cordell Bank, MRN, and Monterey Bay during August. Northern Fulmars were also present in good numbers with 25 seen during a Cordell Bank trip Aug. 6 (JHo) and up to 16 during a Monterey Bay trip Aug. 18 (DLSh). Two Flesh-footed Shearwaters Aug. 20 in MTY and singles during the week following mark the return of this rare species to our area (DLSh). The Aug. 20 MTY pelagic trip also recorded three Short-tailed Shearwaters (DLSh). This species has been reported earlier in the season more frequently in recent years. An Aug. 12 pelagic trip recorded a **Manx Shearwater** in Monterey Bay making the third consecutive year this species has been reported from our offshore waters (DR, DLSh). An unreported number of Black-vented Shearwaters July 30 in Monterey Bay were early (DLSh). The season's first Wilson's Storm-petrel was seen July 23 on a Cordell Bank trip (SBT) and two were seen on an Aug. 5 pelagic trip out of Monterey (DLSh). A **Red-billed Tropicbird** was reported by a party boat skipper 35 miles southwest of Cypress Point, MTY, Aug. 22 (fide DLSh).

Two Trumpeter Swans observed at Lower Klamath N.W.R., SIS, July 18 (FGB) and one there Aug. 13 (MCM) had been present since at least May 25. These birds were hatched in Oregon at Malheur N.W.R. in 1993 and moved to Summer Lake Wildlife Area before fledging where they were present until Dec. 1994. Both swans had green neck collars and are part of a recovery program run by the Oregon

Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Barrow's Goldeneye remained at Bolinas Lagoon, MRN, through Aug. 1 (JMR) and another or perhaps the same bird was at Rodeo Lagoon, MRN, Aug. 16 (JM).

One American Golden-Plover and six Pacific Golden-Plovers were found along the coast Aug. 8 - Sept. 4 (m.ob.). Five Solitary Sandpipers were noted coastally as well (m.ob.) between Aug. 12 - Sept. 6 (m.ob.). A juvenile **Hudsonian Godwit** was seen briefly at Abbotts Lagoon, Pt. Reyes, Aug. 24 (RS). There are just 12 records of this species in California. The last one was found two years ago, also at Point Reyes, by the same observer. At least 22 Semipalmated Sandpipers were detected region-wide between July 27 - Sept. 6 (m.ob.). An apparent adult **Little Stint** was reported from the mouth of Pine Gulch Creek at Bolinas Lagoon, Aug. 30 - Sept. 4 (TEa, Rich Hoyer; TEa). Extreme rarities such as this require extensive documentation. Single Stilt Sandpipers were at Fort Dick, DN, Sept. 2 (JBo) and Palo Alto, SCL, Sept. 4 (CWö). Two Buff-breasted Sandpipers were at Lake Talawa, DN, Sept. 2 (JBo). Ironically, this species has been decidedly rarer since its removal from the CBRC review list in 1991.

South Polar Skuas were observed on Aug. 5, 18 and 20 pelagic trips in MTY (DLSh, LLu). A juvenal-plumaged Franklin's Gull at Spreckels Lake in Golden Gate Park, SF, Sept. 3-4 (HCo, JM) represents at least the second record for the city of San Francisco. An impressive 525 Arctic Terns were tallied on a Aug. 19 pelagic trip in Monterey (DLSh). The pair of Black Skimmers in Mtn. View, SCL were feeding young as of Sept. 4 (m.ob.) while the pair at Hayward Shoreline, ALA, fledged two young Aug. 9 (RJR, m.ob.).

FLYCATCHERS TO GOLDFINCHES

Migrant Willow, Dusky, Gray, and Pacific-slope flycatchers moved through South Bay riparian corridors in good numbers during the last week of August

(SCR, LCh). A **Yellow Wagtail** near Crescent City, DN, Aug. 28 - 29 was the earliest-ever report of this extreme rarity (TLw). There are currently only ten accepted records for the state.

The last week of August and first week of September saw a good movement of eastern vagrants along the coast with well-covered (and reported) San Mateo seemingly the center of activity. A Red-eyed Vireo was at Princeton Aug. 30 (AJa), but was eclipsed by a male **Golden-winged Warbler** at Pescadero Aug. 26-30 (RSTh; m.ob.). Lucy's Warblers were at Ano Nuevo, SM (RSTh) and Trinidad, HUM (BA fide R. Hoyer) Sept. 4. Between three and five Northern Parulas were reported in SM in the Princeton-El Granada-Montara areas Aug. 26-Sept. 4 (m.ob.). A Prairie Warbler was at Southeast Farallon Island (SEFI), SF, Aug. 25 (fide KH). A Black-and-white Warbler in Red Bluff, TEH, Aug. 25 (RHw) was a rare inland find. Two others were coastal in MRN (RS) and SON (DN) Sept. 3. Six American Redstarts July 30 - Sept. 4 were along the coast. The summering birds in San Jose, SCL, were last observed July 30 (MJM). A **Worm-eating Warbler** at Fairhaven, HUM, Aug. 26 - Sept. 1 (R.Hoyer) was heard singing, leading some to speculate that perhaps it was the same individual there June 29 - July 1. Three of four Northern Waterthrushes Aug. 26 - Sept. 3 were along the coast (KH, SBT, TdN) and one was somewhat inland in San Jose, Aug. 31 (SCR). Last and not least of the warblers was a Hooded Warbler at Princeton, SM, Aug. 27 (BS fide RSTh).

First fall reports of additional southbound vagrants include a Rose-breasted Grosbeak near Pescadero, Sept. 1 (ADeM), Indigo Buntings in San Mateo, Santa Clara and Alameda July 27 - Sept. 6 (BMcK; SCR; RJR) and a Bobolink at Point Reyes, Aug. 14 (LHu) and two along the San Mateo coast Aug. 22 and Sept. 2 (BS; RSTh).

The monthly observation column is generated from reports made to the Northern California Bird Box or to the author. Many sightings are unconfirmed and numbers of birds are often best regarded as estimates or "best guesses". In general, birds in boldface are very rare in our region, geographically or seasonally. Many of these are currently reviewed by the California Bird Records Committee (CBRC). Observers are encouraged to provide written and/or photographic documentation to the CBRC, c/o Michael Patten, P.O. Box 51959, Riverside, CA 92517-2959 for any species currently on the review list. A list of review species can also be obtained from the CBRC secretary at the address above.

Observers: Florence Bennett, Jim Booker, Bob Brandriff, Les Chibana, Josiah Clark, Chris Corben, Hugh Cotter, Gary Deghi, Al DeMartini, Todd Easterla, Al Eisner, Doug Ellis, Leora Feeney, George Finger, Steve Glover, Ed Greaves, Keith Hansen, Mike Healy, Rob Hewitt, Jim Holmes, Alan Hopkins, Rich Hoyer, Lisa Hug, Al Jeramillo, Tom Leskew, Leslie Lieurance, John Mariani, Bert McKee, Peter Metropulos, Mark Miller, Joe Morlan, Dan Nelson, Benjamin D. Parmeter, David Powell, Bob Reiling, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Steve Rottenborn, Barry Sauppe, Dan Singer, Debra Shearwater, Rich Stallcup, Dan Stoebel, Scott Terrill, Ron Thorn, Jerry White, Claire Wolfe.
Data thanks to Joe Morlan and the Northern California Bird Box.

Abbreviations for counties: ALA, Alameda; CC, Contra Costa; DN, Del Norte; HUM, Humboldt; MRN, Marin; MEN, Mendocino; MER, Merced; MNO, Mono; MTY, Monterey; SCL, Santa Clara; SF, San Francisco; SHA, Shasta; SIS, Siskiyou; SM, San Mateo; SON, Sonoma

Back Yard Birder

Meg Pauletich

I'm going to be feathering a new nest in September! Or, re-potting our root-bound selves to smaller quarters. Hopefully we will simplify our lives in the process. HA!!! Do you know how much you can gather in just 26 years in one house? The closets are akin to the Olduvai Gorge as far as archeological treasures go. History is everywhere: guitar music books, arts and crafts stuff, knitting and needlepoint books and supplies, games and puzzles and all those old photos (mini-skirts, bell-bottoms, side-burns, what a stylish group we were!). I will sorely miss my yard and the views from my kitchen window, but I'll have the thrill of new vistas and new birds even though I'll be only a mile or so away.

Upon packing up my "retreat," I realized the vastness and heft of my library of bird, wildlife and wildflower books along with journals and files of related material. I've been ruthless in weeding out in other areas, but I can't bear to part with any one of my collection of treasures.

The Christmas catalogues are already arriving and since I'm short on time for my usual column (you'll be hearing about birding in Bali soon!), I thought I'd point out a few ideas for those early-bird shoppers (pun intended). Locally we have

many fine book stores, as well as bird and nature-related shops which I try to support. But for ideas or ease of shopping, try The Crow's Nest, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, NY 14850. They feature several package deals, "The Basic Birder Kit," "The Learning Birder Kit," and a "His and Her Ultimate Viewing" kit. These feature varying levels and prices of binoculars, field guides, bird sound tapes, bird lists and diaries. You could put together your own customized kit for that special person on your gift list. I thought it was a neat idea.

The catalogue also features all sorts of affordable optics, clothing, feeders and birdhouses, interesting gift items that range from fine carvings of birds and photography to door mats, mugs and refrigerator magnets. There are selections of audios of nature and bird sounds and even bird-related videos. Their book titles include field guides, guides on feeding and housing your feathered friends, ecological gardening books, general and butterfly gardening. Oh, oh! I feel the urge to augment my library! As soon as I'm settled in I'll have to start a wish list. Why don't you do the same? Happy holidays already!

Monterey Bay Pelagic Trip Planned 10/28

Saturday October 28 -- Golden Gate Audubon and Shearwater Journeys team up to offer GGAS members a pelagic trip to the Monterey Seavalleys.

The waters off Monterey offer the best seabird watching in North America and Shearwater Journeys runs the best trips in Monterey. We will look for: Sooty, Pink-footed, Buller's, Black-vented, and Short-tailed shearwaters, Black, Ashy, Fork-tailed and Wilson's storm-petrels, Rhinoceros and Cassin's auklets, jaegers

and skuas and albatross, to name but a few of the possibilities.

In 1994 the waters off northern California provided some of the most exciting bird sightings anywhere, including: Red-tailed Tropicbird, Parakeet Auklets, Greater Shearwater, Manx Shearwaters, Laysan Albatross and the first record of Light-mantled Sooty Albatross north of the equator! Mammal sightings have included Hump-backed, Blue, and Baird's Beaked whales, Common, White-sided, and Northern

Right-whale dolphins, and Dall's, and Harbor porpoises. In October the ocean is full of wildlife, but you must be on a boat to see it!

The special reduced rate for GGAS members is \$49 (non-refundable).

To register send a check and a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Shearwater Journeys, P.O. Box 1445, Soquel, CA 95073, noting that you are a GGAS member. For more information please call only Alan Hopkins at (415) 664-0983.

News from the Ranch

Dan Murphy

Things are slow at the ranch now as it gets a chance to rest up after a very busy public season. XCEL, our cross-cultural environmental leadership program for high school students, is underway. The first class of high school XCELers has completed the summer phase of the program and will continue the school year phase until next spring. This program is designed to attract the interest of high school students from our multi-cultural and multi-ethnic community to the environment and the natural sciences. It is designed to first create an awareness of the natural world, and subsequently to encourage these young people to seek further education and perhaps careers in this field.

September too marks the beginning of our docent programs at the Bouverie and Bolinas Lagoon preserves. Docents are preparing for the hundreds of school children who will visit us this fall. The Bank of America Foundation has once again generously helped underwrite our busing program which attempts to assure no classes are turned away from a field trip to an ACR preserve because they can't afford transportation. Your donations help underwrite any shortfall.

ACR DINNER, MUSIC & AUCTION

ACR is trying something new: an evening of dinner, live music, dancing, and a silent auction. *Audubon Canyon Ranch Then & Now* is a celebration of our founders, our success and our potential for the future and will honor Marty Griffin, Clifford Conley, Clarin Zumwalt and Skip Schwartz, some of the very special people who have been instrumental in making ACR the successful organization that it is. It will take place on October 28, at 6:30 p.m., at the Smith Ranch Homes Clubhouse.

I've heard whispers that people are plotting their bidding strategies for cases of fine wine, and a weekend at Hat Creek. I understand the whole thing pretty well except for the silent auction. How can an auction be silent when people will be bidding for "A Day of Birding on the Peninsula with Dan Murphy?" Birding

with me may be great or it may be dead, but it is never silent. You'll just have to go and make some noise about this "silent" auction. Call Pegi Knopp at (415) 868-9244 for further details.

WHAT THE BIOLOGISTS HAVE LEARNED LATELY

If you know Ranch biologists Ray Peterson, John Kelly or John Petersen, then you're aware that they know an awful lot about natural history. After all of our winter rain, I discovered that they know even more than I imagined. This came to pass when I asked Ray why I didn't see the wildflower displays I expected as I drove the freeways at 60 mph. That was an easy one: all the rain enabled the grass to grow unusually tall and cover the wildflowers. I might have seen them if I had been going just a little slower.

So the grass grew longer this year, but that didn't help the mice at Cypress Grove. John Kelly and Grant Fletcher told me they only found a single vole on a survey of the grasslands. Raptors seemed to have the same problem as there was only a single Northern Harrier nest instead of the usual two, and White-tailed Kites didn't nest there for the first time in memory. Even Tomales Bay seemed to have been affected. Winter Brant numbers were the highest that they've ever been, but by April they were at their lowest. John thinks the eel grass beds were negatively affected by the fresh-water inflow.

Meanwhile, at the Ranch we lost 3 heron nests in a May storm. The adults laid a second clutch, so there will be Great Blue Herons fledging as late as September or perhaps even October. Snowy and Great Egrets seemed to nest on schedule, but if the herons had problems, a few egrets probably did too.

Newts are raising questions too. No, not the guy in Washington, but the cute little critters at Bouverie. John Petersen figures the high water in Stewart Creek may have delayed their breeding season. Whatever the cause, numbers are the lowest on record.

Finally, butterflies are way down. In fact, their numbers are so far off that their absence has been noted in the local press. Monarchs have been missing from their traditional wintering sites at Bolinas and Muir Beach. All the other species seem to be down by over 90%.

FALL SEMINARS

call (415) 868-9244 to register

The Way They Lived: Native American Lifestyles, Saturday, October 14

John Peterson and Foley Benson show how the people native to the valleys and hills of Sonoma County survived and even flourished for thousands of years. Bouverie Audubon Preserve, \$30

Under the Heronry, Saturday, October 28. SHHH! Just tell your very special friends about this free ACR activity. It's your only chance of the year to walk beyond the gate at the back of the ranch yard and explore ACR's best-kept secret. Of course, when biologist Ray Peterson is through, there will be much less of a secret about the goings-on under the heronry. Bolinas Lagoon Preserve.

Fall Work Day at Bolinas Lagoon Preserve, Sunday, November 5. Here's a real chance to help us get ready for winter and enjoy a free lunch. Even though it's free, be sure to call us so we can plan our work schedule and lunch.

The Great Monarch Safari, Saturday, November 18. They're the royal family of our butterflies and they're missing!!! Ray will help unravel the mystery of the missing Monarchs. Be sure to bring your lunch because even if you do find a few of the black and orange guys, they're incredible. Bolinas Lagoon Preserve (\$30).

Free Bouverie Audubon Preserve Nature Walks - Oct. 28, Nov. 18, Dec. 16, Jan. 13, Feb. 17, Mar. 2 and 16. Advance registration required. Call (707) 938-4554 no earlier than the first of the month prior to the date of the walk.

Field Trips Calendar

Saturday, October 7

Presidion, Lincoln Park, and Cliff House

Leader: Alan Hopkins (415) 664-0983

Wednesday, October 11

Mini-trip to East Bay shoreline

Leaders: Anna Wilcox (510) 351-9301 and Jean-Marie Spoelman

Saturday, October 14

Point Diablo, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Marin Co.

Leader: Allen Fish (415) 331-0730

For details on the above trips, see The Gull for September

Saturday, October 21

Eighth Annual Point Reyes National Seashore All-Day Fall Birding Blitz

(Joint activity: GGAS & National Park Service)

Meet at 8 a.m. at Five Brooks Trailhead parking lot (about 3.5 miles south of Olema on Hwy. 1). We will bird Five Brooks Pond area, Limantour Spit, Drakes Beach, Chimney Rock and Point Reyes, ending at Bear Valley for a multi-habitat trip. This fast-paced trip should produce approximately 100 species.

Bring food, water, layer clothes for variable weather. Leaders: Leon Abrams (415) 453-9980 (work), (510) 843-4107 (home); and Cathy Purchis (510) 865-9482. (*)

Saturday, October 21

Coyote Hills Regional Park

Meet at 9 a.m. in the parking lot on the left (beyond the fee booth). From the East Bay take I-880 south to Rt. 84/Dumbarton Bridge exit. Turn right and continue west. Exit on Paseo Padre Pkwy. Turn right and continue north one mile to Patterson Ranch Rd. and follow signs to Coyote Hills.

From San Francisco take Hwy. 101 south beyond Redwood City, cross the Dumbarton Bridge and exit on Paseo Padre Pkwy.; go north to Patterson Ranch Rd. and follow signs to Coyote Hills. Bring lunch, liquids and field guides if you have them. This is a unique park with fresh-water and salt-pond habitat. Leader: Peter Allen (415) 892-8063. \$ (*)

Saturday, October 28

Hayward Regional Shoreline

Meet at 8 a.m. in the parking lot beyond the gate at the end of Winton Ave. Take the Winton Ave. exit off I-880 in Hayward and drive west to the end of the road. We should see a variety of waterfowl and shorebirds on this half-day trip. Leader: Cin-ty Lee (510) 486-0673. \$ (*)

Sunday, October 29

Alameda and San Leandro Shoreline

Meet at 8:30 a.m. in Alameda at Broadway and Shoreline Dr. We will bird the Elsie B. Roemer Sanctuary. Shorebirds should be present in numbers, so bring a spotting scope if you have one. Bring lunch and liquids. The afternoon will be spent visiting interesting and less-frequented shorebird hot spots. Leader: Leora Feeney (510) 522-8525. (*)

Sunday, November 5

Birds of Strybing Arboretum, Golden Gate Park

For this half-day trip, meet at 8 a.m. at the front gate of the arboretum (near Ninth Ave. and Lincoln Way). We will look for birds in the various habitats of the arboretum, including Red-shouldered Hawks, Red-breasted Sapsuckers, and White-throated Sparrows. Beginners (and all others) welcome. Lunch optional. Leader: Alan Ridley (415) 566-3241.

Wednesday, November 8

Mini-trip to Aquatic Park, Berkeley, and other nearby areas

Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the northwest corner of Spenger's Restaurant parking lot (4th and Hearst Sts.) to carpool. We should see returning shorebirds and migratory ducks. Lunch optional. Rain cancels trip. Leaders: Anna Wilcox (510) 351-9301 and Jean-Marie Spoelman.

Trips marked with \$ go to parks and other sights that require an entrance fee.

Carpooling arrangements will be attempted for trips marked (*). See below.

Problems: If you need a ride or can take a passenger, or if you need information and have difficulty reaching a field trip leader, call Russ Wilson, Field Trips Committee Chair, (510) 524-2399.



October Meeting: Restoring a Treasure -- The Klamath Basin

Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way, San Francisco

Thursday, October 12, 7:30 p.m.

Restoring a Treasure is the story of the Klamath Basin of southern Oregon and northern California: globally significant for its migratory birds and diverse wildlife, and now a test case in watershed restoration. Beginning with the Basin's history of wetland drainage by the federal government, the film develops the current ecological crisis through a candid dialogue of long-time ranchers, Native Americans, conservationists, ecologists and agency leaders. With stunning wildlife and aerial footage, and first-time archival and graphic illustrations, this film effectively defines and depicts wetlands and riparian areas, documents nutrient loading and its effect on water quality and pH, and presents key community-based solutions, highlighting marsh restoration. **Restoring a Treasure** presents a compelling case for the restoration of this watershed and others like it, where agricultural development at the expense of fish and wildlife has created an urgent need.

The film was produced by Sarah Hall, a Bay Area filmmaker who grew up in Oregon. She spent over three years on the project to provide public information about the Klamath Basin at what seems a crucial time. Made possible through volunteer efforts and grants, including support from the Klamath Basin Audubon Society, **Restoring a Treasure** is now in distribution stages.

Join us in learning more about the history, problems and life of an area that many of us visit infrequently, but speak of often.

ROSTER

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Program Coordinator/Office Manager:

Arthur Feinstein (510) 843-2222

Northern California Bird Box

(510) 524-5592

Weekly Rare Bird Summary

(415) 738-1499

5 species of loon have been seen in California

AUDUBON CALENDARS FOR SALE AT THE GGAS OFFICE

This year we are offering for sale the beautiful 1996 Audubon Wild Bird Calendars and the 1996 Audubon Engagement Calendars. The calendars are priced competitively at \$8.00 for the wall calendar and \$10 for the engagement calendar. You can buy these in person at the office, 2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G, Berkeley 94702, or mail order by sending a check for the cost of the calendar(s) and adding \$2 per calendar for shipping and handling. Welcome in the New Year with an Audubon Calendar.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

As a member of National Audubon Society, you are automatically enrolled in the local chapter, Golden Gate Audubon Society. Chapter benefits include receipt of *The Gull*, access to field trips and programs, and the opportunity to volunteer. Call the office if you have any questions.

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